

And something else unprecedented happened: small projectiles lifted from the planet's surface and escaped the biosphere completely. Some were propelled into orbits around the Earth; some journeyed to the Moon and planets.

If they understood astrophysics, the aliens could confidently predict that the biosphere would face doom in a few billion years when the Sun flares up and dies. But could they have predicted this unprecedented spike less than half way through the Earth's life—these human-induced alterations occupying, overall, less than a millionth of the elapsed lifetime and seemingly occurring with runaway speed?

If they continued to keep watch, what might these hypothetical aliens witness in the next hundred years? Will a final spasm be followed by silence? Or will the planet itself stabilize? And will some of the objects launched from the Earth spawn new oases of life elsewhere?

The answers will depend on us, collectively—on whether we can, to quote Brent Scowcroft again, 'behave wisely, prudently.' •

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT PEYTON WILLIAMS

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to SGT Peyton Williams, a constituent of mine from Wetumpka, AL. Sergeant Williams was selected as the Marine of the Year for the Second Marine Division. Out of the over 20,000 marines who comprise the Second Division, Sergeant Williams was selected for his outstanding performance in Operation Iraqi Freedom, OIF. This prestigious award signifies that Sergeant Williams represents the best of what a U.S. Marine should be.

Later this month, Governor Bob Riley will proclaim August 21, 2008, as Sergeant Peyton Williams Day in the State of Alabama. I would like to express my pride in his accomplishment, and appreciation for his service to our Nation in Iraq. Sergeant Williams contributed to the success of the counterinsurgency in the Al Anbar province. His work there was critical to our success in our current operations and he serves as an example to his fellow marines and an inspiration to all young Alabamians who will follow him in service as members of the military.

According to his company commander, CPT Brian Cillessen, "Peyton has more talent by accident than most Marines learn in a career. He is a great American who has served his country well, and I am proud to have the honor to serve with him and would welcome the opportunity in the future."

I would like to echo Captain Cillessen's praise of Sergeant Williams, it is Marines like him who have ensured the success of the surge strategy. I believe that with dedicated marines like Sergeant Williams in the force, victory is not only possible in our current operations in Iraq, it is certain.

And so, I applaud Sergeant Williams' hard work, and I look forward to hearing more great things about this fine son of Alabama. •

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I recognize the University of Alabama at Birmingham, UAB, a place known for its outstanding, world-renowned HIV/AIDS research and treatment. Dr. Michael Saag directs the Center for AIDS Research at UAB, which was established in 1988 by the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases to stimulate research and scientific advancement concerning AIDS and HIV. This program was initiated in 1998 and currently includes 20 centers funded through a consortium of six National Institutes of Health. Under Dr. Saag's exceptional leadership, the UAB Center for AIDS Research has grown dramatically as shown by its increase in total research funding, from \$2.9 million dollars in 1988 to over \$90 million currently.

UAB has a remarkable program in Zambia, the Center for Infectious Disease Research, headed up by Dr. Jeff Stringer. The UAB Zambia program, which receives funding through the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, is treating over 170,000 patients, with up to 100,000 patients on ARV treatment.

Dr. Stringer and his remarkable team have also worked vigorously with the Zambian Government to deliver "prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission" services to over 500,000 women in Zambia, preventing tens of thousands of infants from being born with HIV. The UAB HIV prevention and treatment service units support 175 public health facilities in four of the nine provinces of Zambia. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission services are offered in 154 clinics and hospitals.

HIV care and treatment services are offered in 46 sites, and include a comprehensive cervical cancer screening program that has screened over 5,000 women in its first year. Research has shown a direct connection between HIV and cervical cancer among women, and groundbreaking work in the field has demonstrated the importance of screening HIV-infected women for cervical cancer, especially in resource-poor countries of the world. Dr. Groesbeck Parham and his group from UAB/ CIDRZ, using PEPFAR resources, have led the way in creating mechanisms to screen large numbers of women in Zambia, saving thousands of lives.

The UAB Zambia program also provides HIV testing to TB patients, and TB screening for all HIV patients in a comprehensive, integrated TB/HIV initiative.

I applaud the fine work UAB is doing, and I know that their service has saved thousands of lives. This is a prime example of the clear, positive results we have seen come about through PEPFAR, and one major reason I worked to ensure that new PEPFAR legislation preserves the focus on treatment that has undoubtedly contributed to its success.

I am proud of the role UAB has played on an international level in striving to provide top-notch treatment, as well as research to continuously improve on that treatment for Alabama, the nation, and the world, over the past 20 years. •

HONORING DR. EPHRAIM ZUROFF

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Dr. Ephraim Zuroff and the Simon Wiesenthal Center for their efforts to track down the last Nazi war criminals from World War II. Their work is enormously important, both in bringing the guilty to justice and preventing future acts of genocide. The statute of limitations does not, must not, expire on crimes against humanity. Earlier this year, I introduced the World War II War Crimes Accountability Act with Senator NELSON, which I hope will help Dr. Zuroff and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in their noble effort.

One of the main targets of this effort is Sandor Kepiro, who is charged with the 1942 killing of about 1,000 Jews, Gypsies, and Serbs in Novi Sad, Serbia. Kepiro allegedly committed these crimes while serving as a Hungarian police captain during World War II. He was convicted in 1944, but the verdict was annulled when the Nazis invaded Hungary. He was convicted again in 1946, in absentia, but escaped before serving his sentence. In 2007, a Hungarian court ruled that Kepiro could not be charged again for his alleged crimes. He is now living in Hungary, and the government continues to investigate the circumstances of his WWII activities. The Hungarian government must summon the political will to bring Kepiro to justice. Inaction is not an option.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center launched Operation: Last Chance in 2002, to identify and assist in the prosecution of the remaining Nazi war criminals still at large. Dr. Zuroff, who has been leading this effort, should be highly commended for his outstanding efforts in bringing the most guilty Nazis to justice. Of these, Kepiro is near the top of his list.

Even today, the crimes of people like Kepiro in the service of pro-Nazi regimes strain our understanding of hate. National Socialist Germany today is an icon remembered only for its brutality, its mantra of genocide, and its culture of racism. And those last Nazis, who are waiting out their last days under the coming twilight, must not be allowed to go quietly into the night, as did too many of their victims. For the souls that were lost, and even more for those that remain, there must be justice. I commend Dr. Zuroff and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in the highest possible terms, and urge the United States Government to do all it can to help them in their cause. •